

Enviro Monitor

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Climate change



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Climate change may cause water scarcity in wheat-growing regions. The impending climate change may have an adverse impact on global wheat production in the years to

come. Scientists involved in a new modelling study found that many wheat-growing regions in the world — as much as 60 per cent — will face a severe water scarcity in a few decades from now due to climate change, leading to a drop in the production of the cereal which currently provides 20 per cent of all calories consumed by humans. According to a study published in the journal *Science Advances*, even if the world manages to stabilise climate change to the minimum as envisaged in the Paris Agreement, 60 per cent of wheat growing regions of the world will simultaneously face severe water scarcity events as compared to 15 per cent regions currently, the scientists said.

In India, wheat fields will be spared with minimal impact as would be the case with China, which tops the wheat producing countries in the world. Most other wheat exporters, including the European Union, Russia and the US, may not be as lucky.

Data-sharing must not influence climate change: Experts. Artificial intelligence and machine learning are playing a big role in tackling climate change by creating huge data for the future. However, data-sharing will be the bone of contention among nations, said experts at the curtain-raiser of Water Future Conference at the Indian Institute of Science.

Why media coverage of climate change matters. In a study published in the *Journal of Marketing Research*, Yubo Chen and others reveal that media coverage of climate change in the US had a strong positive impact on the sales of hybrid vehicles, which generate less emission than regular vehicles, and are far more sustainable for the environment. To measure the impact of the media on sustainable consumption, the authors examined how hybrid vehicle sales in the US between 1999 and 2007 changed with mass media coverage of climate change. They construct a measure of climate change by tracking news articles from 12 major media outlets. Using content and sentiment analysis tools, the authors examined the extent to which articles mentioned climate change and the tone in which they described the problem.

[Mint](#), 23 September 2019 | [The Times of India](#), 24 September 2019 | [The Hindu Business Line](#), 28 September 2019



AIIMS finds high toxin levels in 16% of patients. When doctors at AIIMS decided to run tests for environmental toxins on patients with serious illnesses whose cause could not be established, they found that of 216 patients tested, 32 (16%) had high levels of dangerous metals and substances, including arsenic, lead, chromium, fluoride, iron and cadmium. The findings have reaffirmed their concern about environmental toxins causing a spurt in many illnesses, including cancer, neuro-development

disorders, congenital diseases and gastrointestinal issues, among others. Most of these toxins get into the body through contaminated water, air and soil.

Odisha transport authority makes online pollution testing certificate mandatory from October 1. The Odisha State Transport Authority published a notice regarding the compulsion of Pollution Testing

Certificate. According to the State Transport Department, no PUC certificate will be accepted without being issued through VAHAN which is to done on or before October 1, 2019. Currently, 163 authorized Pollution Testing Centres are available in entire Odisha, out of which 106 have been linked with VAHAN to issue digital PUC certificates

[The Times of India](#), 18 September 2019 | [The Free Press Journal](#), 24 September 2019



2% of India's forest land is encroached. Nearly 2%, or 13,000 sq km, of India's total forest area is occupied by encroachers, the environment ministry has said in reply to a query filed under the Right to Information Act. India's total forest cover is 708,273 sq km. The largest area encroached on is in Madhya Pradesh with about 5347.17 sq km, or nearly 7%, of 7,7414 sq km of forests being occupied by squatters; followed by Assam (11.28%) and Odisha (1.5%), according to the ministry.

Bio-restoring degraded patches of Sunderbans. Increasing anthropogenic activities along with natural stresses have led to massive degradation of one of India's World Heritage Site — the Sunderbans. A team of researchers from West Bengal State University, Kolkata, set out with the herculean task of identifying the major reasons for the decline and also devising new restoration strategies. They surveyed 19 shoreline mangrove patches, collected soil and water samples and studied them. The results published in *Hydrobiologia* highlight that lack of essential nutrients and increasing salinity were the main problems in Sunderbans.

Rs 20-crore push to revive 100 hectares of floodplains. Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has initiated the process of restoring 100 hectares of the Yamuna floodplains. Its plan comprises the construction of walkways and cycle tracks, development of multiple wetlands, nurseries and a green buffer, up to 300 metres, along the river. The proposed site has been divided into four zones — ecological, human-nature interaction, public recreation and eco-urban linkage.

130 wetlands to be restored on priority. Underlining the importance of wetlands not only as a source of water but also as ecosystems that prevent land degradation and desertification, the Centre has identified 130 wetlands for priority restoration in the next five years and asked states to submit their respective integrated management plan. The highest number of such identified wetlands are in Uttar Pradesh (16) followed by Madhya Pradesh (13), Jammu & Kashmir (12), Gujarat (8), Karnataka (7) and West Bengal (6).

Green norms for project expansion could be relaxed. The environment ministry is considering a number of relaxations in the environment impact assessment (EIA) process that is carried out for development projects, including mining, before they are given the go-ahead. In a draft of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2019, circulated for *internal discussion*, the expansion of development projects with a production capacity increase of up to 25% has been exempted from EIA.

[The Times of India](#), 7 September 2019 | [Hindustan Times](#), 18 September 2019 | [Hindustan Times](#), 30 September 2019 | [The Hindu](#), 28 September 2019 | [Hindustan Times](#), 28 September 2019



10-year sanitation plan to focus on waste management. Centre has launched a 10-year strategy to maintain these gains and shift focus to solid and liquid waste management in rural areas of the country. The first priority is to sustain the gains of open defecation free (ODF), to prevent slipbacks and continue behaviour change.

[The Hindu](#), 28 September 2019